the G-20 did not present any proposal at Sao Paulo to WTO Members, the issue of analysis of the stand taken and reaction of the US and the EU to it does not arise.

Fiscal Incentives in SEZs

1953. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to cease the mandatory eligibility condition of physical presence in the Special Economic Zones to qualify for the fiscal incentives;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the criteria laid down for the fresh investment and the minimum export turnover in SEZs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) In the context of formulation of an integrated legislation for Special Economic Zones, suggestions have been received to treat Export Oriented Units meeting certain investment/export turnover criteria as virtual Special Economic Zone units. However, a final decision is yet to be taken on the contents of the proposed legislation

WTO Talks on Agriculture

1954. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Brazil, China and South Africa have expressed their Support for early resumption of WTO talks on agricultural subsides;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government propose to impose countervailing duties on the subsidised agri imports from US and EU; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K S. ELANGOVAN). (a) and (b) After the

Cancun Ministerial Conference, Members of the World Trade Organization (WTO), which include Brazil, China and South Africa, were in favour of early resumption of negotiations on the Doha Work Programme, which includes agriculture After intensive negotiations, the General Council of the WTO adopted on 1 August 2004 by consensus of all its Members, a Decision on the Doha Work Programme incorporating also a *Framework for Establishing Modalities in Agriculture.* The elements and principles contained in this Framework duly address India's farm sector interest and concerns, *inter alia,* to ensure that developed countries' commitments will result in substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic subsidies provided to their farm sector, export subsidies will be eliminated by a credible end date, and substantial market access improvements will result for products of export interest to developing countries. Moreover, consistent with the Doha mandate to negotiate on agriculture, any additional commitments, particularly in market access, by developing countries like India should serve to safeguard their food and livelihood security concerns and rural developments needs.

(c) and (d) Countervailing duties can be levied by Government pursuant to an investigation initiated and conducted in accordance with the relevant provisions of the WTO Agreements. Only based on receipt of sufficient evidence of the existence of a subsidy, injury and causal link in agricultural products from any WTO Member, including the US and the EU, can the Government exercise this right.

Economic Cooperation Agreement with Singapore

1955. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the negotiations on a comprehensive economic cooperation agreement between India and Singapore;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the last week of September 2003, fourth round official meeting was held;

(c) whether any time-frame has been fixed to finalise the details; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Negotiations on